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(54) Title: METHOD OF ENHANCING NUTRIENT UPTAKE

(57) Abstract

Methods using Peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonists to increase absorption of nutrients from the intestine without a concomitant increase in intestinal energy expenditure. The methods comprise administering PYY peptide or PYY peptide agonists to subjects. Methods using Peptide YY (PYY) antagonists to decrease absorption of nutrients from the intestine. The methods comprise administering PYY receptor antagonists to subjects. Pharmaceutical formulations comprising PYY receptor agonists, such as the PYY peptide and analogs thereof, and pharmaceutical formulation comprising PYY antagonists.

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METHOD OF ENHANCING NUTRIENT UPTAKE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods of increasing nutrient uptake from the intestinal tract in both man and animals, and more specifically relates to 5 increasing the uptake of sodium dependent co-transported nutrients without a concomitant increase in energy expenditure by the intestinal tract.

Background of the Invention

There are no methods commercially available to 10 increase absorption of nutrients from the intestine using exogenous administration of therapeutic agents. There are reports in the literature that epidermal growth factor (EGF) increases the absorption of electrolytes and nutrients such as glucose and proline from the intestine. 15 Opleta-Madsen et al., *Am. J. Physiol.* 260:G807 (1991); M. Schwartz and R. Storozuk, *Am. J. Surgery*, 155:18 (1988)).

Waeber, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,839,343, discloses the use of neuropeptide Y (NPY) and peptide Y (PYY) for intravenous administration to a subject to 20 treat hypotension. The peptides are reported to be able to prevent the blood pressure fall induced by certain endotoxins associated with, for example, bacteremia and septic or anaphylactic shock.

WO 93/24515 (Cornell Research Foundation), 25 discloses the identification and cloning of a human NPY/PYY receptor, and discloses the development of antisense oligonucleotides complementary to the receptor mRNA, which oligonucleotides can be used to inhibit the contractile action of neuropeptide Y in human blood 30 vessels.

A. Bilchik et al., *Gastroenterology* 105: 1441 (1993), reports that peripheral infusion of PYY in unfed dogs produced a dose-dependent increase in water and

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electrolyte absorption from the small intestine. Absorption of fluid and electrolytes from the intestine is known to increase after a meal (meal-induced jejunal absorption); Bilchik et al. report that the infusion of 5 a physiologically effective dose of PYY augmented this proabsorptive response in both the jejunum and ileum.

Summary of the Invention

A first aspect of the present invention is a method of enhancing gastrointestinal absorption of a 10 sodium dependent co-transported nutrient. The method comprises administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist to the subject in an amount which enhances the gastrointestinal absorption of the nutrient. The PYY receptor agonist may comprise the PYY peptide.

15 A further aspect of the present invention is a method of improving the nutritional status of a subject. The method comprises administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist in an amount which increases the uptake of sodium dependent co-transported nutrients from the 20 intestine. The PYY receptor agonist may comprise the PYY peptide.

A further aspect of the present invention is a method of decreasing the active uptake of glucose in the gastrointestinal tract of a subject. The method 25 comprises administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor antagonist in an amount which decreases the active gastrointestinal absorption of glucose.

30 A further aspect of the present invention is a method of increasing the weight gain of a subject. The method comprises administering a peptide YY (PYY) agonist to the subject.

35 A further aspect of the present invention is a method of treating diarrhea by increasing intestinal water absorption in a subject. The method comprises administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist in an amount which increases intestinal water absorption.

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A further aspect of the present invention is a pharmaceutical formulation comprising, in a physiologically acceptable carrier, an active agent selected from PYY peptide, a PYY receptor agonist or a 5 PYY receptor antagonist.

Further aspects of the present invention include the use of the PYY peptide or a PYY receptor agonist for the manufacture of a medicament for treating conditions where an increase in nutrient, glucose, or 10 water uptake is desirable, and the use of a PYY receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament for treating conditions where a decrease in nutrient, glucose, or water uptake is desirable.

The use of PYY differs from the use of EGF in 15 surprising and unexpected ways, most significantly in the fact that the energetic cost of the transport of nutrient with PYY is significantly lower than with EGF.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 graphically compares the energy 20 expended in the sodium-dependent active uptake of glucose in mouse intestine, with and without exogenous PYY. Energy expenditure is provided in nanomoles of ATP expended per nanomole of glucose absorbed.

Detailed Description of the Invention

25 PYY has not previously been described as an enhancer of sodium dependent co-transported nutrient transport within the small intestine. The present inventors have unexpectedly found that exogenously administered PYY not only increases nutrient transport 30 across the intestinal absorptive epithelial cell (enterocyte) luminal membrane, the transport is increased without a concomitant increase in energy expenditure by the intestinal tract. The methods of the present invention have applications in both human and veterinary

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therapeutics, as well as in animal husbandry and in drug screening techniques.

In the intestine, transport of substances across the absorptive epithelial cell luminal membrane 5 occurs by active transport and by passive transport. Active transport occurs against an electric or chemical gradient, requires the expenditure of energy, is carrier-mediated, and is subject to competitive inhibition. Passive transport occurs with the electric or chemical 10 gradient, does not require energy and is not carrier-mediated. The absorption of both amino acids and sugars occurs by an active transport mechanism and requires the presence of sodium ions. See Hediger and Rhoads, Molecular Physiology of Sodium-Glucose Cotransporters, 15 *Physiological Reviews*, 74:993-1026 (1994). While there are reports in the literature that epidermal growth factor (EGF) increases the absorption of electrolytes and nutrients such as glucose and proline from the intestine (Opleta-Madsen et al., *Am. J. Physiol.* 260:G807 (1991)), 20 it is also reported that the energetic cost of transporting each unit of nutrient is similar to that described for control animals (Bird et al., *J. Nutr.* 124:231 (1994)).

The luminal active glucose transporter in the 25 small intestine, S-GLT1, is a protein whose structure is encoded by one gene of a family of genes that also encode the structure for a sodium-dependent proline transporter and a sodium dependent neutral amino acid transporter (also known as Transporter A). Hence it is probable that 30 agents that increase sodium-dependent intestinal glucose transport will also increase sodium-dependent amino acid transport. This was observed recently in sheep injected with recombinant bovine growth hormone, where sodium-dependent duodenal active transport of glucose increased 35 by approximately 60% and transport of proline increased by approximately 30%. Bird, A.R., *Regulation of Small Intestinal Nutrient Absorption*, Ph.D. Thesis, North

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Carolina State University, Department of Animal Science,
1994.

As used herein, nutritional status refers to caloric uptake (i.e., absorption from the gut rather than mere ingestion), and enhancing nutritional status refers to increasing total caloric uptake over that which would otherwise occur. As used herein, nutrients refers to both carbohydrates, such as glucose, and amino acids, such as proline. As used herein, an increase (or decrease) in active uptake of a nutrient due to treatment of a subject with a PYY receptor agonist or antagonist refers to increased (or decreased) nutrient uptake over that which would have occurred in the subject without PYY treatment. Similarly, an increase or decrease in water absorption, and an increase or decrease in weight gain, refers to an increase or decrease over that which would have occurred in the subject without PYY treatment. As used herein, enhancing gastrointestinal absorption of a nutrient refers to either (1) increasing the absorption of a nutrient without a concomitant increase in energy expenditure, or (2) to decreasing the energy expenditure required to absorb a given amount of nutrient (each as compared to nutrient absorption in the subject without any treatment). As used herein growth and growth enhancement refer to increases in either, or both, weight and height over that which would otherwise occur.

1. Description of PYY

PYY (peptide tyrosine tyrosine) is a 36 amino acid hormonal peptide, produced by "L type" endocrine cells. See Boucher et al., *Regul. Pept.* 13:283 (1986). PYY is a member of the pancreatic polypeptide family, which includes pancreatic polypeptide (PP) and neuropeptide Y (NPY) in addition to Peptide YY. PPY is released in response to feeding and has a variety of effects on the gastrointestinal tract, including inhibition of gastric acid secretion, inhibition of

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pancreatic exocrine secretion, delay of gastric emptying, and slowing of intestinal transit (see Savage et al., *Gut*, **28**, 166 (1987); Pironi et al., *Gastroenterology* **105**, 733 (1993); Adrian et al. *Gastroenterology* **89**:494 (1985)).

5 Binding studies using labelled PYY have demonstrated the presence of a PYY receptor in rat small intestine. Servin et al., *Endocrinology*, **124**, 692 (1989), used fragments of PYY peptide to study the structural requirements of peptides for competing with 10 labelled PYY for binding to intestinal membranes, and reported that fragments of PYY acted as agonists of intact PYY, although at reduced biological activity.

In addition to the PYY peptide, PYY receptor 15 agonists and antagonists may also be used in the methods of the present invention. As used herein "PYY agonist" means a substance which binds to the PYY receptor and induces the same physiologic responses as PYY. As used herein, "PYY antagonist" means a substance which binds to the PYY receptor and blocks the physiologic effect of 20 PYY.

2. Uses of PYY in Methods of the Present Invention

The PYY peptide and PYY agonists used in the methods of the present invention increase feed utilization efficiency in domestic livestock by 25 increasing nutrient uptake without a concomitant increase in intestinal energy expenditure, thereby increasing the production efficiency of animal products such as meat, wool and milk, while decreasing the amount of animal fecal waste. As used herein, domestic livestock or 30 domesticated livestock refers to animal species commonly raised in captivity and selectively bred for desirable characteristics, including but not limited to rate of growth, conformation, or meat, fur, egg or milk production. Domestic livestock include bovines, ovines, 35 porcines, caprines, equines, avians, lagomorphs, felines and canines.

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Recent studies indicate that in strains of domestic livestock highly selected for their rapid growth, the intestine's ability to absorb nutrients may be a growth limiting factor. In other words, the 5 intestine functions at or near its assimilation limit so that increasing nutrient ingestion will not result in an increase in nutrient assimilation, and will not therefore contribute to increased growth. Croom et al., *J. Dairy Science*, 76:2112-2124 (1993). Recent work by Obst and 10 Diamond indicate that in strains of domestic chickens, the intestinal capacity to absorb nutrients imposes limits on normal growth. Obst and Diamond, *Auk* 109, 451-464 (1992). Thus in addition to therapeutic uses, methods of the present invention may be used in normal 15 (healthy) domestic animals to increase feed utilization efficiency, and thus increase growth above that which could be achieved by any increase in feed intake alone.

PYY or PYY agonists may also be used to increase nutrient uptake for therapeutic reasons in both 20 humans and animals. Therapeutic uses include, but are not limited to, increasing the rate of growth, the rate of weight gain, and the survival rate of premature offspring, neonates, and the aged; increasing total 25 nutrient uptake in subjects with short bowel syndrome or with surgical resection of the intestine; and improving nutritional status of subjects with eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia, subjects with acquired immune deficiency syndrome or other chronic immune deficiency syndromes, individuals with Down's syndrome, 30 and burn victims or other severely traumatized subjects.

The PYY peptide and its receptor agonists may also be used in methods of the present invention for treating diarrheal diseases, including cholera. An important function of the sodium dependent glucose 35 cotransporters is to increase fluid absorption from the gut. Hediger and Rhoads, *Physiol. Reviews*, 74: 993-1026 (1994). Current treatments for cholera include the

infusion of glucose to increase the absorption of water from the intestine; water and sodium are co-transported across the intestinal mucosa along with glucose. Use of PYY or its receptor agonists in the methods of the 5 present invention will increase glucose transport, resulting in the increased co-transport of water and sodium without a concomitant increase in energy expenditure by the intestinal tract.

PYY receptor antagonists may be used where a 10 reduction in the uptake of nutrients, and in particular the uptake of glucose, is desired. This may occur, for example, in hyperglycemic conditions, diabetes, and chronic obesity.

The PYY peptide, its receptor agonists and 15 antagonists may also be used to screen substances for PYY receptor ligand activity, as binding to the receptor is subject to competitive inhibition. Methods of screening substances, such as by competitive binding assays, are known in the art and would be apparent to one skilled in 20 the art.

In the manufacture of a medicament according to the present invention, hereinafter referred to as a pharmaceutical formulation, the active compound (PYY, PYY agonist or PYY antagonist, or analogs thereof) is 25 typically admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The carrier may be either solid or liquid, such as sterile, pyrogen-free water or sterile pyrogen-free phosphate-buffered saline solution. The carrier is preferably formulated with the active compound as a unit- 30 dose formulation, for example, a tablet which may contain from 0.5% to 95% by weight of the active compound. One or more active compounds may be incorporated in the formulations of the invention, which may be prepared by any of the well known techniques of pharmacy.

35 As the PYY peptide, its agonists and antagonists described above are the active ingredient in the formulations, they are included in an amount

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effective to accomplish the intended treatment. In general, PYY or its agonists are administered to a subject to be treated in an effective nutrient transport stimulating amount; PYY antagonists are included in an effective nutrient transport inhibiting amount. The precise amount to be administered to the subject is determined in a routine manner, and will vary depending on the subject, the condition being treated and the condition of the subject, and the route of administration. In general, for PYY the dosage administered will be sufficient to result in peak plasma PYY concentrations of from about 1×10^{-1} , 1×10^0 or 1×10^1 picomole per Liter to about 1×10^2 , 1×10^3 or even 1×10^4 picomole per Liter or more. Preferred dosages may be determined by simply administering a composition containing a known amount of active ingredient to a subject, and monitoring the subject for the desired effect, as would be known by one skilled in the art.

For the preparation of these compositions, use can be made of pharmaceutical carriers adapted for conventional forms of administration, for example, injection solutions, tablets, capsules, dragees, syrups, solutions, suspension and the like. As an injection medium, it is preferred to use water which contains the additives usual in the case of injection solutions, such as stabilizing agents, salts or saline, and/or buffers. The active agent or its pharmaceutical formulation may be contained within a nutritional medium, e.g., in infant formulas or nutritional supplements. Oral formulations may be slow release preparations or enteric coated preparations to facilitate delivery of the peptide to the small intestine.

Any suitable route of administration may be employed in carrying out the methods of the present invention, including administration by parenteral injection (e.g., subcutaneous, intravenous,

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intramuscular, or intradermal), and oral, nasal, rectal, or topical administration.

Subjects to be treated by the methods disclosed herein include those of any species, but are preferably 5 mammalian or avian subjects. The term "avian" as used herein is intended to encompass all avian species, including but not limited to, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quail, and pheasant. Mammalian subjects include, but are not limited to, human, bovine, ovine, porcine, 10 caprine, equine, lagomorph, feline and canine subjects. Thus the present invention has both human medical and veterinary medical applications, as well as applications in livestock industries.

The peptides of the present invention may be 15 made in accordance with techniques known in the art. Using accepted techniques of chemical synthesis, the peptide is built up either from the N-terminus or, more typically, the C-terminus using either single amino acids or preformed peptides containing two or more amino acid 20 residues.

3. Analogs

Analogs of the PYY peptide are an aspect of the present invention. As used herein, an "analog" is a chemical compound similar in structure to a first 25 compound, and having either a similar or opposite physiologic action as the first compound. With particular reference to the present invention, PYY peptide analogs are those compounds which, while not having the amino acid sequences of the PYY peptide, are 30 capable of binding to the PYY receptor. Such analogs may be peptide or non-peptide analogs, including nucleic acid analogs, as described in further detail below.

In protein molecules which interact with a receptor, the interaction between the protein and the 35 receptor must take place at surface-accessible sites in a stable three-dimensional molecule. By arranging the

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critical binding site residues in an appropriate conformation, peptides which mimic the essential surface features of the PYY peptide may be designed and synthesized in accordance with known techniques.

5 International PCT Application WO 93/24515 (Cornell Research Foundation, Inc.) reports the cloning and identification of a human NPY/PYY receptor.

Methods for determining peptide three-dimensional structure and analogs thereto are known, and 10 are sometimes referred to as "rational drug design techniques". See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,833,092 to Geysen; U.S. Patent No. 4,859,765 to Nestor; U.S. Patent No. 4,853,871 to Pantoliano; U.S. Patent No. 4,863,857 to Blalock; (applicants specifically intend that the dis- 15 closures of all U.S. Patent references cited herein be incorporated by reference herein in their entirety). See also Waldrop, *Science*, 247, 28029 (1990); Rossmann, *Nature*, 333, 392-393 (1988); Weis et al., *Nature*, 333, 426-431 (1988); James et al., *Science*, 260, 1937 (1993) 20 (development of benzodiazepine peptidomimetic compounds based on the structure and function of tetrapeptide ligands).

In general, those skilled in the art will appreciate that minor deletions or substitutions may be 25 made to the amino acid sequences of peptides of the present invention without unduly adversely affecting the activity thereof. Thus, peptides containing such deletions or substitutions are a further aspect of the present invention. In peptides containing substitutions 30 or replacements of amino acids, one or more amino acids of a peptide sequence may be replaced by one or more other amino acids wherein such replacement does not affect the function of that sequence. Such changes can be guided by known similarities between amino acids in 35 physical features such as charge density, hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity, size and configuration, so that amino acids are substituted with other amino acids having

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essentially the same functional properties. For example: Ala may be replaced with Val or Ser; Val may be replaced with Ala, Leu, Met, or Ile, preferably Ala or Leu; Leu may be replaced with Ala, Val or Ile, preferably Val or 5 Ile; Gly may be replaced with Pro or Cys, preferably Pro; Pro may be replaced with Gly, Cys, Ser, or Met, preferably Gly, Cys, or Ser; Cys may be replaced with Gly, Pro, Ser, or Met, preferably Pro or Met; Met may be replaced with Pro or Cys, preferably Cys; His may be 10 replaced with Phe or Gln, preferably Phe; Phe may be replaced with His, Tyr, or Trp, preferably His or Tyr; Tyr may be replaced with His, Phe or Trp, preferably Phe or Trp; Trp may be replaced with Phe or Tyr, preferably Tyr; Asn may be replaced with Gln or Ser, preferably Gln; 15 Gln may be replaced with His, Lys, Glu, Asn, or Ser, preferably Asn or Ser; Ser may be replaced with Gln, Thr, Pro, Cys or Ala; Thr may be replaced with Gln or Ser, preferably Ser; Lys may be replaced with Gln or Arg; Arg may be replaced with Lys, Asp or Glu, preferably Lys or 20 Asp; Asp may be replaced with Lys, Arg, or Glu, preferably Arg or Glu; and Glu may be replaced with Arg or Asp, preferably Asp. Once made, changes can be routinely screened to determine their effects on function with enzymes.

25 Non-peptide mimetics of the peptides of the present invention are also an aspect of this invention. Non-protein drug design may be carried out using computer graphic modeling to design non-peptide, organic molecules able to bind to the PYY receptor. See, e.g., Knight, 30 *BIO/Technology*, 8, 105 (1990). Itzstein et al, *Nature*, 363, 418 (1993) (peptidomimetic inhibitors of influenza virus enzyme, sialidase). Itzstein et al modeled the crystal structure of the sialidase receptor protein using data from x-ray crystallography studies and developed an 35 inhibitor that would attach to active sites of the model; the use of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) data for modeling is also known in the art. See also Lam et al,

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Science, 263, 380 (Jan. 1994) regarding the rational design of bioavailable nonpeptide cyclic ureas that function as HIV protease inhibitors. Lam et al used information from x-ray crystal structure studies of HIV 5 protease inhibitor complexes to design nonpeptide inhibitors.

Analogs may also be developed by generating a library of molecules, selecting for those molecules which act as ligands for a specified target, and identifying 10 and amplifying the selected ligands. See, e.g., Kohl et al., Science, 260, 1934 (1993) (synthesis and screening of tetrapeptides for inhibitors of farnesyl protein transferase, to inhibit ras oncoprotein dependent cell transformation). Techniques for constructing and screening 15 combinatorial libraries of oligomeric biomolecules to identify those that specifically bind to a given receptor protein are known. Suitable oligomers include peptides, oligonucleotides, carbohydrates, nonoligonucleotides (e.g., phosphorothioate oligonucleotides; see Chem. and 20 Engineering News, page 20, 7 Feb. 1994) and nonpeptide polymers (see, e.g., "peptoids" of Simon et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 89, 9367 (1992)). See also U.S. Patent No. 5,270,170 to Schatz; Scott and Smith, Science, 249, 386-390 (1990); Devlin et al., Science 249, 404-406 25 (1990); Edgington, BIO/Technology, 11, 285 (1993). Peptide libraries may be synthesized on solid supports, or expressed on the surface of bacteriophage viruses (phage display libraries). Known screening methods may be used by those skilled in the art to screen combi- 30 natorial libraries to identify PYY receptor ligands. Techniques are known in the art for screening synthesized molecules to select those with the desired activity, and for labelling the members of the library so that selected active molecules may be identified. See, e.g., Brenner 35 and Lerner, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 89, 5381 (1992) (use of genetic tag to label molecules in a combinatorial library); PCT US93/06948 to Berger et al., (use of

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recombinant cell transformed with viral transactivating element to screen for potential antiviral molecules able to inhibit initiation of viral transcription); Simon et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **89**, 9367, (1992) 5 (generation and screening of "peptoids", oligomeric N-substituted glycines, to identify ligands for biological receptors); U.S. Patent No. 5,283,173 to Fields et al., (use of genetically altered *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to screen peptides for interactions).

10 As used herein, "combinatorial library" refers to collections of diverse oligomeric biomolecules of differing sequence, which can be screened simultaneously for activity as a ligand for a particular target. Combinatorial libraries may also be referred to as "shape 15 libraries", i.e., a population of randomized polymers which are potential ligands. The shape of a molecule refers to those features of a molecule that govern its interactions with other molecules, including Van der Waals, hydrophobic, electrostatic and dynamic.

20 Nucleic acid molecules may also act as ligands for receptor proteins. See, e.g., Edgington, *BIO/Technology*, **11**, 285 (1993). U.S. Patent No. 5,270,163 to Gold and Tuerk describes a method for identifying nucleic acid ligands for a given target molecule by selecting 25 from a library of RNA molecules with randomized sequences those molecules that bind specifically to the target molecule. A method for the *in vitro* selection of RNA molecules immunologically cross-reactive with a specific peptide is disclosed in Tsai, Kenan and Keene, *Proc. 30 Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **89**, 8864 (1992) and Tsai and Keene, *J. Immunology*, **150**, 1137 (1993). In the method, an antiserum raised against a peptide is used to select RNA molecules from a library of RNA molecules; selected RNA molecules and the peptide compete for antibody binding, 35 indicating that the RNA epitope functions as a specific inhibitor of the antibody-antigen interaction.

C. Peptides, Agonists and Antagonists

The term PYY peptide agonist as used herein refers to molecules that bind to PYY receptors and result in the increased uptake of glucose without a concomitant 5 increase in intestinal energy expenditure. PYY agonists may be fusion proteins containing the PYY peptide sequence or may be formed by modifying the PYY peptide's natural amino acid sequence or modifying the N-terminal amino and/or the C-terminal carboxyl group, and include 10 salts formed with acids and/or bases, particularly physiologically acceptable inorganic and organic acids and bases. Preferred modifications are those which provide a more stable, active peptide which will be less prone to enzymatic degradation *in vivo*.

15 Peptides of the present invention may be made in accordance with techniques known in the art. Using accepted techniques of chemical synthesis, the peptide is built up either from the N-terminus or, more typically, the C-terminus using either single amino acids or 20 preformed peptides containing two or more amino acid residues. Particular techniques for synthesizing peptides include (a) classical methods in which peptides of increasing size are isolated before each amino acid or preformed peptide addition, and (b) solid phase peptide 25 synthesis in which the peptide is built up attached to a resin such as a Merrifield resin. In these synthetic procedures, groups on the amino acids will generally be in protected form using standard protecting groups such as *t*-butoxycarbonyl. If necessary, these protecting 30 groups are cleaved once the synthesis is complete. Other modifications may be introduced during or after the synthesis of the peptide. Peptides of the present invention may also be produced through recombinant DNA procedures as are known in the art.

35 The following examples are provided to illustrate the present invention, and should not be construed as limiting thereof. In these examples, g

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means gram, mg means milligram, μ g means microgram, cc means cubic centimeter, mm means millimeter, μ mol means micromole, pmol means picomole, nmol means nanomole, min means minute, μ L means microLiter, 3 OMD means tritiated 5 3-O-Methyl-D-glucose, and phlorizin means phloretin-2'- β -D-glucoside.

EXAMPLE 1

Materials and Methods

Two month old male swiss-webster mice obtained 10 from Charles River Laboratory were subcutaneously injected in the post-scapula region once a day for three days with one of the following treatments: (1) Saline treatment: .25 ml of sterile physiological saline (0.9% saline) (n = 9 mice); (2) Peptide YY (PYY) treatment: 300 15 μ g per kilogram body weight of Peptide YY in .25 ml sterile physiological saline solution (n = 6 mice); (c) Somatostatin treatment: 120 μ g per kilogram body weight of somatostatin in .25 ml sterile physiological saline solution (n = 6 mice); or (4) Transforming Growth Factor 20 alpha (TGF α) treatment: 300 μ g per kilogram body weight of TGF α in .25 ml sterile physiological saline solution (n = 6 mice).

TGF α was chosen as a comparative treatment because the TGF α peptide is homologous to EGF and has 25 similar biological effects, and binds to the EGF receptor (Todaro et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 77:5258 (1980)). Somatostatin was chosen as a comparative treatment because a role for somatostatin in intestinal absorption of nutrients has been suggested by some 30 researchers.

EXAMPLE 2

Food Intake, Empty Body Weight and Small Intestinal Weight and Length in Treated Mice

During the three days of the injection protocol 35 describe in Example 1, mice were allowed free access to a commercial pelleted rodent chow (ground prior to

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feeding) and food intake was measured in grams of feed consumed per mouse over the three day period. After the final injection the mice were fasted for eighteen hours and then sacrificed by cervical dislocation. Body weight 5 was measured after the three days' fast (Fasting Body Weight) and prior to sacrifice by cervical dislocation. After sacrifice, the small intestine was removed and the weight and length were measured.

Results are shown in Table 1. No significant 10 differences were found among the four treatment groups in food intake, fasting body weight, and length of small intestine. The small intestine weight was significantly greater in the somatostatin treatment group ($P < 0.05$) for reasons which are unclear. Small intestine weight in 15 the somatostatin group may have increased due to hypertrophy or hyperplasia of the intestine. In comparing the results for the saline, PYY and TGF α groups, no significant differences were seen in weight and length of small intestine, indicating that any 20 increase in nutrient transport in these groups is due to an increase in the activity of the transport process rather than an increase in the number of absorptive cells (enterocytes).

EXAMPLE 3

25 **Effect of Systemic Administration of Select Peptides**
on Jejunal Glucose Transport

A sample of mid-jejunal tissue was dissected out of each of the small intestines removed in Example 2. As described below, each glucose transport assay was 30 replicated three times per mouse, and an assay to measure non-specific binding was replicated twice per mouse. Thus each mid-jejunal sample (one from each mouse) was cut into eight one millimeter rings.

The assay for glucose transport was a 35 modification of the assay validated by Black, Comp. Biochem Physiol. 90A:379 (1988) to measure glucose

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transport in embryonic chick duodenum. Additional details of the present method as modified for mouse intestine are discussed in Bird et al., *J. Nutr.* 124:231 (1994), and the method is validated for mice in Bird et al., *Nutr. Research*, 14:411 (1974). The transport buffer utilized for jejunal samples was similar to that described by Black (1988) but also contained 0.5 mmol/L 3-O-methyl-D-glucose (3OMG), 0.5 mmol/L B-hydroxybutyrate, and 2.5 mmol/L glutamine. The assay was started by transferring intestinal rings preincubated at 37°C for 5 minutes in transport buffer to beakers containing 28 MBq/L of [³H]3OMG in 2 ml of buffer. To differentiate active from passive transport, phlorizin (phloretin-2'- β -D-glucoside; Sigma Chemicals, St. Louis, Mo.) was utilized. Phlorizin is a specific inhibitor of the S-GLT1 transporter (a sodium dependent active transporter) located on the luminal surface of absorptive epithelium (see Brot-Laroche and Alvarado, *Mechanisms of sugar transport across the intestinal brush border membrane*, IN: Intestinal Transport: Fundamental and Comparative Aspects, Gilles-Baillin and Gilles (Eds.), Springer-Verlag, Berlin (1983)). The S-GLT1 transporter is one of a family of transporter proteins, and actively transports glucose. 3OMD is transported by S-GLT1, but is not metabolized by the epithelial cell and hence accumulates in the cell (see Kimmich and Randalls, *J. Membrane Biol.* 23:57 (1975)). Phlorizin was added at 1 mmol/L to the buffer in an additional set of incubations. A 5 minute concomitant incubation of duplicate samples at 4°C measured nonspecific binding of [³H]3OMG. Thus each mid-jejunal sample was cut into eight one millimeter rings; three rings were assayed in the absence of phlorizin at 37°C, three rings were assayed in the presence of phlorizin at 37°C, and two rings were assayed in the presence of phlorizin at 4°C to measure background nonspecific binding of [³H]3OMG.

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Uptake of [³H]3OMG was stopped after 5 minutes by rinsing samples in 3 ml of ice-cold mannitol (300 mmol/L). Labelled substrate was extracted from the tissue into 2 mL of trichloroacetic acid (25g/L) at 37°C 5 for 60 minutes in a shaking water bath. Samples were removed, blotted and weighed. The extract was centrifuged at 2000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C, and then 1 ml of the decanted supernatant was dispersed in 5 ml of Ecolite (+) scintillation cocktail (ICN Biomedicals, 10 Cleveland, Ohio) and counted for 10 minutes in a scintillation counter. Duplicate aliquots (100 uL) of incubation media containing approximately 2.8 kBq [³H]3OMG (both with and without phlorizin) and a blank were counted with each set of samples.

15 Active glucose transport was calculated as the difference between 3OMG accumulation in media with and without phlorizin. Passive transport was calculated as the difference between 3OMG accumulation in the presence of phlorizin at 37°C and 4°C. Total transport is the 20 difference between 3OMG accumulation at 37°C, in the absence of phlorizin, and accumulation at 4°C in the presence of phlorizin. Transport data are presented as pmol glucose/(min-mg wet tissue). Fasting body weight of the mice was used to express data on a body weight basis.

25 As shown in Table 2, PYY administration resulted in a statistically significant increase (P = 0.5) in active glucose transport (provided in picomoles of glucose transported per minute per milligram of intestinal tissue) compared to transport in the saline 30 control group. When glucose transport was expressed per unit of fasting body weight (calculations not shown), a 46% increase in active glucose transport was seen in the PYY treatment group compared to the saline control group; this increase in glucose transport attributable to the 35 PYY treatment is statistically significant (P = 0.03).

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EXAMPLE 4

Effect of Peptide Treatments on Visceral Organ Weight

After the treated mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation as described in Example 2, the 5 visceral organs were dissected out and the liver, stomach, kidneys, colon and caecum of each mouse was weighed. Results are provided in Table 3. The kidneys of the PYY treatment group were heavier than those of other treatment groups for unknown reasons. When organ 10 weight was standardized to fasting body weight, no significant differences in organ weight were seen among the treatment groups; the kidneys of the PYY treatment group were not statistically heavier than those of other groups ($P = 0.09$).

15

EXAMPLE 5

Effect of Peptide Treatments

on Jejunal Oxygen Consumption in Mice

Measurement of oxygen consumption rate was determined as described by McBride and Milligan, *Br. J. Nutr.*, 53:605 (1985) for ovine duodenal mucosa, and as described by Bird et al., *J. Nutr.* 124:231 (1994) for mice jejunum, using an oxygen monitor and an incubation bath fitted with an O_2 electrode (Yellow Springs Instruments, Yellow Springs, Ohio, USA). Adjacent 25 jejunal ring samples (two from each mouse jejunum) were prepared by rinsing in ice-cold HEPES transport buffer to remove digesta residues. The rate of O_2 uptake of the duplicate jejunal samples, constantly stirred in 4 ml of media at 37°C, was electronically recorded. After 3 30 minutes, 100 μ L of 12.6 mmol/L ouabain (Sigma Chemical), a specific inhibitor of Na^+ , K^+ -ATPase, was added to the chamber and oxygen consumption was plotted for 3 minutes. Dry matter content of the tissue pieces was then measured by drying the jejunal samples at 80°C in a forced draught 35 oven for 48 hours.

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Results are shown in **Table 4**. No significant differences in oxygen consumption were found among the treatment groups ($P > 0.05$).

EXAMPLE 6

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Energetic Efficiency

of Na-Dependent Active Glucose Uptake

The energetic efficiency of Na-dependent active glucose uptake in the PYY treated mice and the saline control treated mice was calculated, assuming that 10 consumption of 1 nmol of O_2 (as measured in Example 5, above) indicated expenditure of 5 nmol of ATP (Gill et al., *J. Nutr.* 119:1287-1299 (1989)).

Comparing the total nmol ATP expended per nmol of 3OMG uptake between the saline control treatment and 15 the PYY treatment, as shown in **FIGURE 1**, indicates that the metabolic cost of total glucose uptake from the intestinal lumen is less in the PYY treatment group (reduced nmol ATP/nmol glucose uptake in PYY treatment group).

20 The foregoing examples are illustrative of the present invention, and are not to be construed as limiting thereof. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.

TABLE 1
**Food Intake, Fasting Body Weight, Small Intestinal Weight and Length
 in Mice Treated with Select Peptides**

Treatment (N)	Food Intake (g)	Fasting Body Weight (g)	Weight Small Intestine (g)	Length Small Intestine (mm)
Saline Control (9)	10.3	28.4	1.810	450
PYY (6)	9.2	27.5	1.652	454
Somatostatin (6)	9.1	27.7	2.127*	467
TGF α (6)	11.0	28.8	1.999	461
SEM ¹	2.3	1.1	0.244	25

1 - Pooled SEM (Standard Error of the Mean)

* Comparisons with other treatment groups are significantly different, $P < 0.05$

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TABLE 2
Effect of Systemic Administration of Peptides on Jejunal Glucose Transport

Treatment (N)	Glucose Transport (pmol/min/mg tissue)		
	Active	Passive	Total
Saline Control (9)	264	81	345
PYY (6)	369 ^{2,3}	63	431
Somatostatin (6)	303	67	371
TGF α (6)	347	64	410
SEM ¹	88	48	102

1 - Pooled SEM

2 - Significance of PYY effects for active glucose transport: $P = 0.05$ compared to control treatment3 - When glucose transport was expressed per unit of body weight, a 46% increase in active glucose transport was attributable to PYY treatment (compared to saline control); this increase was statistically significant ($P = 0.31$).

TABLE 3
Effect of Peptide Treatment on Visceral Organ Weight

Treatment (N)	Organ Weight (mg)				Caecum
	Liver	Stomach	Kidneys	Colon	
Control (9)	1417	239	511	324	149
PYY (6)	1274	230	468 ^{2,3}	315	134
Somatost. (6)	1441	232	534	316	156
TGFr α (6)	1442	243	522	379	156
SEM ¹	141	22	30	67	27

1 - Pooled SEM

2 - Significantly different compared to control ($P < 0.05$)

3 - No significant differences when organ weight normalised to fasted body weight (effects of PYY treatment on kidney weight, $P = 0.09$).

TABLE 4
Effect of Select Peptides on Jejunal Oxygen Consumption in Mice

Treatment (N)	Oxygen Consumption ($\mu\text{L}/\text{min}/\text{g}$) ¹		
	Without Ouabain Wet	Without Ouabain Dry	With Ouabain Wet
Control (9)	45.74	242.83	35.73
PyY (6)	47.71	253.93	36.54
Somatostatin (6)	43.62	224.77	35.13
TGF α (6)	47.96	238.76	36.03
SEM ²	8.95	39.84	6.98
			33.13

¹ - Oxygen consumption of wet and dry jejunum in the presence and absence of ouabain.

² - Pooled SEM with 21 degrees of freedom.

No significant ($P > 0.05$) treatment differences.

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THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enhancing gastrointestinal absorption of a sodium dependent co-transported nutrient, comprising administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist to said subject in an amount effective to enhance 5 the gastrointestinal absorption of said sodium dependent co-transported nutrient.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said PYY receptor agonist comprises peptide PYY.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said 10 sodium dependent co-transported nutrient is glucose.
4. A method according to claim 1 in which said sodium dependent co-transported nutrient is an amino acid.
5. A method according to claim 1 in which said 15 sodium dependent co-transported nutrient is proline.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is a mammal.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.
- 20 8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is an avian.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said subject has a condition selected from the group 25 consisting of short bowel syndrome, surgical resection of the intestine, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, congenital immune deficiency, Down's syndrome, or severe burns.

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10. A method of improving the nutritional status of a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist to said subject in an amount effective to increase the uptake of 5 sodium dependent co-transported nutrients from the intestine.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said PYY receptor agonist comprises peptide PYY.

12. A method according to claim 10 wherein 10 said subject has a condition selected from the group consisting of short bowel syndrome, surgical resection of the intestine, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, congenital immune deficiency syndrome, Down's syndrome, or severe burns.

15 13. A method of decreasing the active uptake of glucose in the gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need of such decrease, comprising administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor antagonist to said subject in an amount effective to decrease the active gastrointestinal 20 absorption of glucose.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said subject has a condition selected from the group consisting of diabetes and obesity.

25 15. A method of increasing the weight gain of a subject, comprising administering an effective weight increasing amount of a peptide YY (PYY) agonist to said subject.

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16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said subject is a human subject selected from the group consisting of premature infants, the aged, the immunologically deficient, and the severely physically 5 traumatized.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein said subject is a mammalian subject selected from the group consisting of bovines, ovines, porcines, caprines, equines, lagomorphs, felines and canines.

10 18. A method according to claim 15 wherein said subject is a domesticated avian.

19. A method according to claim 15 wherein said subject is a chicken.

20. A method according to claim 15 wherein 15 said PYY agonist comprises PYY peptide.

21. A method of treating diarrhea by increasing intestinal water absorption in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering a peptide YY (PYY) receptor agonist to said subject in an 20 amount effective to increase intestinal water absorption.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein said PYY receptor agonist comprises PYY peptide.

23. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising, in a physiologically acceptable carrier, a PYY receptor 25 agonist.

24. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 23, wherein said PYY receptor agonist is selected from the group consisting of PYY peptide and PYY peptide analogs.

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25. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising,
in a physiologically acceptable carrier, a PYY receptor
antagonist.

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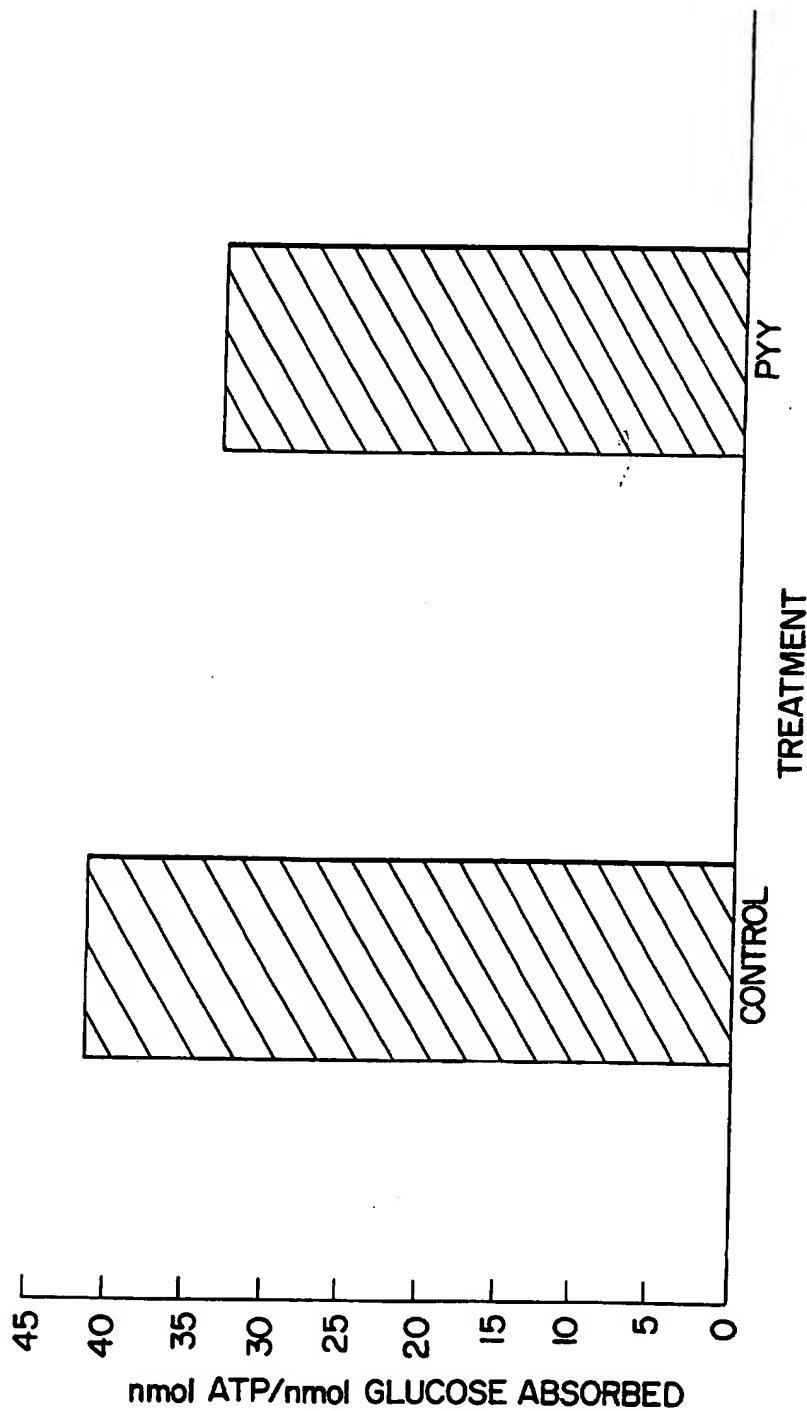


FIG. 1.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/00901

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61K 38/00; C07K 14/00
US CL :530/324; 514/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 530/324; 514/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,839,343 (WAEBER ET AL.) 13 June 1989, see entire document.	1-25
A	American Journal Physiology, Volume 260, issued 1991, Opleta-Madsen et al, "Epidermal growth factor upregulates intestinal electrolyte and nutrient transport", pages G807-G813, see entire document.	1-25

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report

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